

Serial No. : 10/668,051
Applicants : Erik Appel, Ralf Eising, Jürgen Heun,
Jörg Lindemaier, Oliver Moll, Klaus Wissing,
Thilo Walloschek and Rüdiger Ostholt
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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 20, 2004. Reconsideration is requested.

Disposition of Claims.

Claims 1-22 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 6, and 15-22 were cancelled, and new claims 23-33 were added. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, 5, 8-14, and 23-33 remain pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter.

The undersigned gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 3, 4, 6-9, and 13-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8 and 13 are rewritten in this matter as independent claims. The remaining claims in the application are dependent claims that depend from either claim 8 or claim 13 as a base claim. Accordingly, all of the claims that remain in the application should be in a condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 2,570,833 to Metcalf et al. The rejection is traversed. In order to expedite prosecution, claims 1, 3, and 6 are cancelled. Claims 2, 5, 7 and 10-12 are amended to be dependent upon claim 8 which should be in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, the rejection has been overcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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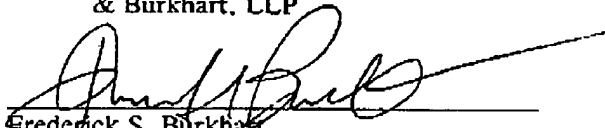
The application should be in a condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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